

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 02020 182008Z

54

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 AID-05 PC-01 CU-02 /084 W

----- 007961

P R 181817Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3414

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 2020

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PFOR, NI

SUBJ: FMG ANNOUNCES GOWON IMPLICATED IN ABORTIVE COUP.

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS AND CAPE TOWN
FOR EMBASSY

1. FMG HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS INVESTIGATIONS SINCE LAST FRIDAY'S
ABORTIVE COUP SHOW THAT THE COUP PLOTTERS HAD AS AN OBJECTIVE THE
RETURN TO POWER OF FORMER HEAD OF STATE GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON AND HIS
MILITARY GOVERNORS. ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED THAT FMG HAS AMPLE EVIDENCE
TO SHOW THAT GOWON KNEW ABOUT AND BY IMPLICATION APPROVED THE COUP
ATTEMPT.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT GOES ON TO STATE THAT THERE WAS A LONG LIST OF
INTENDED ASSASSINATION TARGETS, IN ADDITION TO GENERAL MURTALA
MUHAMMED, WHICH INCLUDED NEW HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO, CHIEF OF ARMY
STAFF LT. GEN. DANJUMA AND COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
COL. JOSEPH GARBA.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 02020 182008Z

3. COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OBJECTIVE OF COUP WAS TO RESTORE GOWON AND HIS UNPOPULAR AND CORRUPT STATE GOVERNORS TO POWER MAY HELP CALM AN INCREASINGLY UNEASY NIGERIA. ANNOUNCEMENT COULD RESULT IN A LESSENING OF ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING. GOWON'S CONTINUING PRESENCE IN UK, HOWEVER, COUPLED WITH COUP LEADER DIMKA'S VISIT TO U.K. HIGH COMMISSION LAST FRIDAY, MAY SERVE TO KEEP CHARGES OF BRITISH COMPLICITY ALIVE. IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT PRESS WILL ATTEMPT CONTRAST GOWON'S NON-ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY WITH MUHAMMEDS FORTHRIGHT PRO-MPLA STANCE (AND HIS ATTACKS ON US ANGOLAN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY) IN A WAY THAT WILL SUGGEST US IMPLICATION IN COUP PLOT.

EASUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ASSASSINATION, MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS02020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760061-0052
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760240/aaaabish.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FMG ANNOUNCES GOWON IMPLICATED IN ABORTIVE COUP. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS AND CAPE TOWN
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PFOR, NI, (GOWON, YAKUBU), (MUHAMMED, MURTALA)
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006